

REMARKS

Claims 1, 3 and 5 are pending. By this Amendment, claims 1, 3 and 5 are amended and claims 2, 4, 6 and 26-27 are canceled without prejudice to or disclaimer of the subject matter contained therein. Reconsideration is respectfully requested in view of the following remarks.

I. The Claims Define Patentable Subject Matter

The Office Action rejects claims 1-6 and 26-27 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) over Hattori (U.S. Patent No. 6,034,718) in view of Takahashi (U.S. Patent No. 5,522,789). The rejection is respectfully traversed.

In particular, neither Hattori nor Takahashi, individually or in combination, discloses or suggests at least the capturing modes of an image capturing means provided with at least one input processing circuit include at least two of a capturing mode in which image data can be captured from television cameras from frame to frame and the image data from the television cameras can be captured by successively switching the television cameras from frame to frame, a capturing mode in which the image data can be captured from the television cameras from field to field and the image data from the television cameras can be captured by successively switching the television cameras from field to field and a capturing mode in which the image data can be captured from the television cameras from pixel to pixel and the image data from the television cameras can be captured by successively switching the television cameras from pixel to pixel, as recited in independent claim 1.

The Office Action at page 7 acknowledges that Hattori does not disclose the above-noted features. However, the Office Action asserts that Takahashi discloses these features. Applicants respectfully disagree.

The Office Action asserts that Takahashi's Fig. 15 and its disclosure, col. 13, lines 45-67 and col. 14, lines 1-14, disclose the above-noted features. However, Fig. 15 refers to a memory 65 that stores information from a single CCD 31 (i.e. a single camera). Claim 1, on the other hand, recites "image data [that] can be captured from television cameras." Thus, Takahashi cannot operate in a manner as recited in the claim.

For example, claim 1 recites "the image data from the television cameras can be captured by successively switching the television cameras from frame to frame, a capturing mode in which the image data can be captured from the television cameras from field to field and the image data from the television cameras can be captured by successively switching the television cameras from field to field and a capturing mode in which the image data can be captured from the television cameras from pixel to pixel and the image data from the television cameras can be captured by successively switching the television cameras from pixel to pixel." Takahashi cannot perform these features because Takahashi's Fig. 15 discloses only a single camera.

Contrary to that asserted in the Office Action, Takahashi merely discloses that field memories 65a to 65h in which an image read from a camera 31 is written, are switched. An image read from the CCD 31 is divided into a right image and a left image, and both the images are captured. Thus, there is no switching between cameras.

Further, each switch is switched with a signal having a predetermined duration, and a position of the memory is displayed alternatively at a short duration to achieve three-dimensional displays. Thus, the configuration of memory 65 is that an output signal read from the CCD 31 is divided into a right image signal and a left image signal, and then temporarily stored in the memory 65. Right image signals and left image signals are read alternately frame by frame and then displayed on a color monitor 35 by performing interlaced

scanning as shown in Fig. 16. Nowhere, does Takahashi disclose or suggest the above-noted features.

Moreover, Takahashi's Fig. 15 discloses switches, i.e., frame select switches S1-S6, but does not disclose or suggest an image capturing means provided with at least one input processing circuit, as recited in claim 1.

Therefore, independent claim 1 defines patentable subject matter. Claims 3 and 5 depend from independent claim 1, and therefore also define patentable subject matter. Accordingly, withdrawal of the rejection under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) is respectfully requested.

II. Conclusion

In view of the foregoing, this application is in condition for allowance. Favorable reconsideration and prompt allowance of claims 1, 3 and 5 are earnestly solicited.

Should the Examiner believe that anything further would be desirable in order to place this application in even better condition for allowance, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned representative at the telephone number listed below.

Respectfully submitted,


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Attachment:
Petition for Extension of Time

Date: May 3, 2005

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